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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO SAC, DALLAS (89-43) DATE: 11/23/63

FROM SA EMORY E. HORTON
SA Emory E. Horton, Jr.

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Mr. ILYA A. MAMANTOV, 6911 East Mockingbird Lane, advised that he is employed as a geologist for Sun Oil Co., Dallas, Texas, and teaches at SMU, Dallas, Texas.

MAMANTOV stated he first heard of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and his wife MARINA in early 1962 at which time the OSWALDs resided in Fort Worth, Texas. He stated that since 1960, he, MAMANTOV, has taught a course in Russian at Socony Mobil Research Laboratory, Dallas, Texas, and shortly after Christmas, 1962, one of his students, NORMAN FREDRICKSEN, came to him, MAMANTOV, and told him of the OSWALDS and their efforts to meet other Russian speaking persons. Further, he learned that the OSWALDS attended a party of Russian speaking persons at an unknown residence in University Park, Texas, which was held in early 1963 at which place they met several Russian speaking persons including Mrs. MICHAEL PAINE, 2515 W. 5th Street, Irving, Texas, with whom Mrs. OSWALD now resides.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that in early 1963 OSWALD lost his job in Fort Worth, Texas (employment unknown) and OSWALD then came to Dallas where he diligently sought employment as a photographer. When he was unable to find employment as a photographer in Dallas, he went to New Orleans, Louisiana, this being in about May, 1963 and left his wife with Mrs. PAINE. MAMANTOV later heard that OSWALD found employment in New Orleans, presumably as a photographer but exact nature of employment being unknown.

MAMANTOV stated that OSWALD's wife joined him in New Orleans in the summer of 1963 and in September, 1963, Mrs. PAINE went on a vacation visiting unknown states in the East and on her return to Dallas visited the OSWALDS in New Orleans and brought her back to Dallas, this being in late September, 1963.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that he has known GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT, 6628 Dickens, Dallas, Texas, for a number of years

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DL 89-43

and MARINA OSWALD admitted to MAMANTOV's mother-in-law, Mrs. DOROTHY GRAVATIS, 6911 East Mockingbird, that they, the OSWALDS, were good friends of the DE MOHRENSCHILDTs.

Mr. MAMANTOV said he suspects DE MOHRENSCHILDT of possible subversive activities and of being a communist and mutual friends, IGOR and NATALIE VOSHININ, 3504 Mockingbird Lane, told him, MAMANTOV, that ~~DE MOHRENSCHILDT had made a~~ trip to Mexico City, Mexico, where they met MIKOYAN from Russia, and he, MAMANTOV, also learned that DE MOHRENSCHILDT has within recent years visited Togo, Yugoslavia, and Dahomey. Further, DE MOHRENSCHILDT is not working regularly and is not highly regarded as a geologist but some months ago received an assignment from Look or National Geographic Magazine to do extensive photographic work for them in Brazil or some other South American country. He pointed out that DE MOHRENSCHILDT does not work steadily; is not highly regarded as a geologist but seems to get along well financially and travels extensively.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that he has never met LEE HARVEY OSWALD and first met MARINA OSWALD on 11/22/63 when he, MAMANTOV, acted as translator during interview with MARINA in the Dallas Police Department. Mr. MAMANTOV has always been afraid to meet or be associated with the OSWALDS as he has been suspicious of them since he first learned about them and pointed out that he, MAMANTOV, is a relatively recent naturalized citizen (naturalized in 1955) and does not want to do anything that might put him in a bad light such as being associated with persons of questionable repute.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that based on the above information he has come to the conclusion that LEE HARVEY OSWALD must be an underground communist agent. He stated this conclusion has been arrived at by his knowledge that any citizen or person who goes to Russia can usually only leave after they have accepted definite assignments from the Russian Government. Further, MARINA OSWALD has reportedly frequently complained that while she and her husband were residing in Russia LEE H. OSWALD hunted frequently and MAMANTOV stated it is well known that only trusted communists are allowed to have guns, even for hunting purposes, in Russia. Further, the OSWALDs reportedly had a very nice apartment while residing in Russia which luxury is usually reserved for those of influence in the Communist Party and from all the information that he has been able to gather, LEE HARVEY OSWALD denounced his American citizenship

while in Russia, attempted to or did apply for Russian citizenship, and married a Russian girl and was later able to leave Russia with little or no difficulty. He pointed out that in the usual situation where the above circumstances were present it would be extremely difficult for an individual to depart Russia and especially take a Russian citizen with him, even though he is married to the person.

Mr. MAMANTOV concluded that he is of the opinion that LEE HARVEY OSWALD is probably a subversive agent planted in this country to create disturbances when so directed. MAMANTOV opined that OSWALD's actions on 11/22/63, assuming that he did assassinate President KENNEDY, in all probability have international implications and OSWALD may very well have acted under the direction of a foreign power in carrying out this action. In this regard Mr. MAMANTOV said he has never received any information or statement attributed to OSWALD that would indicate that OSWALD had any animosity or opposition to President KENNEDY as an individual or as a president.

MAMANTOV stated that OSWALD's failure to express opposition to President KENNEDY should not be accepted as being of pertinence because should he have had an assignment in this regard it would be only logical that he would not discuss the matter with anyone or say or do anything that might bring attention to his assignment.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated he has no direct information indicating that OSWALD is a communist but MARINA OSWALD told Mrs. DOROTHY GRAVATIS that LEE H. OSWALD has idealistic communist views. After consulting with Mrs. GRAVATIS who is ill at this time, Mr. MAMANTOV stated that during a discussion between Mrs. OSWALD and Mrs. GRAVATIS, they were discussing mutual friends when Mr. GEORGE BOUHE, 4740 Homer Street, Dallas, Texas, was mentioned. MARINA OSWALD stated her husband and BOUHE did not get along well and Mrs. GRAVATIS asked her if she meant that they had political differences; to which MARINA OSWALD is quoted as answering in the affirmative. Mrs. GRAVATIS then asked if it was because LEE H. OSWALD was a communist, at which time MARINA said "yes" and explained that her husband is an "idealistic communist."

Further, Mr. MAMANTOV stated he has learned from the VOSHININs and BOUHE that LEE H. OSWALD "hates America and the American way of government."

Mr. MAMANTOV pointed out that he has had no direct contact with the OSWALDS and his information has primarily been received from Mrs. MICHAEL PAINE and MARINA OSWALD through his mother-in-law, DOROTHY GRAVATIS. He stated that he is of the understanding that Mrs. GRAVATIS has had only one contact with Mrs. OSWALD that being an occasion that Mrs. GRAVATIS called Mrs. OSWALD at the request of Mrs. PAINE, who was out of town and asked Mrs. GRAVATIS to call to see if she could be of help to Mrs. OSWALD. Mr. MAMANTOV stated that Mrs. PAINE has been taking private lessons in Russian from Mrs. GRAVATIS and wanted Mrs. GRAVATIS to tutor her small children in the Russian language. He stated this has bothered him as to why Mrs. PAINE would want to study the Russian language and have her small children study the language, pointing out that she, Mrs. PAINE, is about 28 years of age, separated from her husband, and supporting two small children.

He stated that during conversations between Mrs. PAINE and Mrs. GRAVATIS Mrs. PAINE had frequently been quoted as stating that LEE H. OSWALD should be a communist and was probably doing underground work but she, Mrs. PAINE, found it difficult to convince herself that he, OSWALD, was a communist as he is such a nice young individual.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that MARINA OSWALD claims to be a graduate pharmacist but he, MAMANTOV, questions this as MARINA came to the United States at the age of 20 years, therefore, it would have been extremely difficult for her to have completed high school and a four year course at that young age. MARINA OSWALD told Mrs. GRAVATIS that she has no parents and Mr. MAMANTOV thinks this may very well be true pointing out that MARINA was born in 1941 in Lemingrad, Russia, which city was the scene of bitter fighting during World War II.

ACQUAINTANCES OF LEE H. AND MARINA OSWALD

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that DECLAN P. and KATHERINE FORD, 14057 Brookcrest, Dallas, Texas (AD 9-5642) are acquainted with the OSWALDs and MARINA stayed with them for about one month in late 1962. MAMANTOV said KATHERINE FORD was born in Russia having lived in the U. S. something more than 14 years. Mr. MAMANTOV said he has no evidence that would bear on the political background or beliefs of either Mr. or Mrs. FORD.

DL 49-43

MAMANTOV said GEORGE BOUHE, a long time resident of Dallas, Texas, is a retired accountant that lives at 4740 Homer Street, Dallas, Texas. He said BOUHE is a bachelor who trys to help persons who are in need by giving them money and/or collecting money or clothes for such persons. He stated that soon after the OSWALDs arrived in Dallas, Texas, BOUHE helped them by collecting clothes and other similar acts and since that time has reportedly been in contact with them, probably in his philanthropic efforts.

MAMANTOV stated that while Mr. and Mrs. OSWALD were residing in Fort Worth they were in contact with two families, (FNUs) CLARK and GREGORY, both of Fort Worth, Texas, who helped the OSWALDs financially during the period they resided in that city. He said Mr. BOUHE can furnish the identities of Clark and GREGORY. He opined that their assistance to the OSWALDS was probably caused by the fact that CLARK's wife and Mr. GREGORY were both born in Russia. He stated that CLARK is an attorney and GREGORY is an independent petroleum consultant and he believes GREGORY's first name is either PETER or PAUL.

Mr. MAMANTOV stated that one FOLKNER SCHMIDT, a German who came to the United States about two years ago and is a geologist employed by Socony Mobil Company can probably furnish information regarding GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT as they are apparently close acquaintances.

He explained that SCHMIDT told him, MAMANTOV that he had met DE MOHRENSCHILDT who seemed to be an extremely nice individual this being sometime in 1962. Later MAMANTOV warned SCHMIDT about associating with DE MOHRENSCHILDT knowing that SHMIDT would want to apply for his citizenship and did not feel that his association with DE MOHRENSCHILDT would be an asset at the time of making such application. A couple of days later DE MOHRENSCHILDT called MAMANTOV and says "A good friend of mine told me that you said I was a communist. If I hear of any more statements of this nature, I will come over and beat hell out of you." Mr. MAMANTOV said he had not told SCHMIDT that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was a communist but had warned him that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was a person who SCHMIDT might not want to be associated with and said that DE MOHRENSCHILDT was not highly regarded as a geologist. He stated that at most he might be accused of inferring that DE MOHRENSCHILDT might be other than a patriotic American citizen.

DL 89-43

He stated that MARINA OSWALD stayed with TEOFIL MELLER, 5930½ LaVista Street, Dallas, Texas, during an unrecalled period while in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. MAMANTOV said the voshinins can in all probability furnish the name and address of the persons where the party was held in Highland Park, Texas, at which time the OSWALDs met numerous Russian speaking people as stated above.